

USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

GAIN Report

Global Agricultural Information Network

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Venezuela

Post: Caracas

Government imported 83 percent of foods for its retail network

Report Categories:

Agricultural Situation

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Report Highlights:

Post summarizes a report from the Ministry of Food regarding purchases by their buying organization CASA during 2010.

General Information:

The *Corporación de Abastecimiento y Servicios Agrícolas* (CASA), an official entity that supplies the government's retail chains MERCAL and PDVAL, imported 3.07 million tons of food products during 2010, or about 83.5 percent of their total purchases. According to the report, 608,741 tons were bought from domestic suppliers.

The list of imports includes 253,000 tons of chicken, 620,000 tons of rice, 44,500 tons of wheat pastas, 345,000 tons of yellow corn, 350,000 tons of white corn, 17,000 tons of margarine, 14,000 tons of sausages, 23,000 tons of black beans, and 1,000 tons of tuna.

In addition to these imports, CASA purchased a range of products from domestic sources, including 185,460 tons of rice, 162,000 tons of corn flour, 76,500 tons of pastas, 76,323 tons of sugar, 56,420 tons of edible oil, 1,000 tons of beans, 26,400 tons of wheat flour, and 6,950 tons of chicken.